

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed July 27, 2005 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Subject Matter Indicated Allowed or Allowable

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowability of claims 2, 3 and 8, subject to their re-writing in independent form. The limitations of claims 2 and 8 have been incorporated into claims 1 and 7, respectively, which are therefore now in condition for allowance.

Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4 – 7, 9 – 11 and 17 – 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Rypinski (U.S. pat. no. 5,461,627).

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to include the limitations of allowable claims 2 and 8, respectively, making claims 1 and 7 allowable as well. Further, claims 4 – 6 are allowable by virtue of their dependence on allowable claim 1, and claims 9 – 11 are allowable by virtue of their dependence on allowable claim 8. Claims 17 – 22 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter.

Request for Entry of Amendment

Entry of this Amendment will place the Application in better condition for allowance, or at the least, narrow any issues for an appeal. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment is appropriate and is respectfully requested.

Conclusion


In view of the preceding discussion, Applicants respectfully urge that the claims of the present application define patentable subject matter and should be passed to allowance.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone call would help advance prosecution of the present invention, the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number below.

Please charge any additional required fees, including those necessary to obtain extensions of time to render timely the filing of the instant Amendment and/or Reply to Office Action, or credit any overpayment not otherwise credited, to our deposit account no. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: 12/22/05


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